

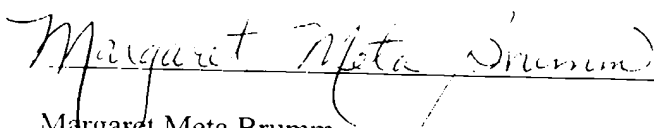
is being added by these amendments and request that they be entered. Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be sent for all pending claims.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants have herein amended Claim 9 to specify that the treatment is conducted either before or during the bleaching of the pulp and not "at the same time" as the pulp undergoes pressurized oxygen delignification. Applicants submit that no new matter is being added by these amendments and request that they be entered. Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be sent for all pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the based upon the above amendments and remarks that all pending claims are in condition for Allowance and courteously request that a Notice of Allowance be sent.

Respectfully submitted,



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